Name: _____ Date: _____

The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

Circle group

The Maple Lane Garden Club owned one helpful robot. Its name was Dandy, and its job was easy to say: pull the weeds.

Dandy was very good at it. It rolled down the rows on small treads and plucked out every unwanted plant. It never missed a thistle or a bit of crabgrass.

One spring morning, Dandy reached a patch of yellow dandelions at the back fence. It stopped. A bumblebee was resting on one flower, wings trembling in the cold.

"My orders say these are weeds," Dandy told the bee. "But you are using them."

The bee only buzzed. Dandy's gears hummed. It checked the club's rule list again and again. Pull the weeds. Keep the beds tidy. It could not find a rule that said anything about bees.

When the club met that afternoon, Dandy rolled to the middle of the room. "I have a question," it said. "Which plants are weeds?"

Mr. Okafor scratched his head. "I suppose a weed is any plant growing where we do not want it."

"Then I would like a place where we want them," said Dandy.

The club laughed, but they agreed. They set aside the back corner and added a small sign that read WILD CORNER. Dandy never pulled a plant there again. By midsummer the corner buzzed all day, and the tomatoes nearby grew twice as heavy.

Questions

1. What was Dandy's job in the garden club?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dandy stop at the dandelions?

_____

_____

3. How did Mr. Okafor explain what a weed is?

_____

_____

4. What did the club do after Dandy asked for a place for wild plants?

_____

_____

5. Why did the tomatoes grow so heavy near the wild corner?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest about rules?

_____

_____

Words to know

weeds: wild plants that grow where people do not want them
treads: the bands that roll around the wheels of some machines
thistle: a wild plant with prickly leaves and purple flowers
trembling: shaking a little
tidy: neat and in good order

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

Triangle group

The Maple Lane Garden Club owned precisely one helpful robot, whose name was Dandy, and whose job was easy to state: pull the weeds.

Dandy was remarkably good at it. It rolled down the rows on small rubber treads and plucked out every unwanted plant it encountered. It never overlooked a thistle or a single blade of crabgrass.

One spring morning, Dandy reached a patch of yellow dandelions at the back fence, and it stopped abruptly. A bumblebee was resting on one of the flowers, its wings trembling in the morning chill.

"My orders say these are weeds," Dandy told the bee. "But you are plainly using them."

The bee only buzzed. Dandy's gears hummed as it checked the club's rule list again and again. Pull the weeds. Keep the beds tidy. It could not find a single rule that mentioned bees.

When the club met that afternoon, Dandy rolled to the middle of the room. "I have a question," it announced. "Which plants are weeds?"

Mr. Okafor scratched his head thoughtfully. "I suppose a weed is any plant growing where we do not want it."

"Then I would like a place where we do want them," said Dandy.

The club chuckled, but they agreed. They set aside the back corner and added a small sign that read WILD CORNER. Dandy never pulled another plant there. By midsummer the corner buzzed from dawn until dusk, and the tomatoes nearby grew twice as heavy.

Questions

1. What was Dandy's job in the garden club?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dandy stop abruptly at the dandelions?

_____

_____

3. How did Mr. Okafor define a weed?

_____

_____

4. What did the club do after Dandy asked for a place for wild plants?

_____

_____

5. Why did the tomatoes nearby grow so heavy?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest about following rules?

_____

_____

Words to know

weeds: wild plants that grow where people do not want them
treads: the bands that roll around the wheels of some machines
thistle: a wild plant with prickly leaves and purple flowers
trembling: shaking a little
tidy: neat and in good order

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

Square group

The Maple Lane Garden Club owned precisely one helpful robot, whose name was Dandy, and whose responsibility was simple to state: pull the weeds.

Dandy performed this task remarkably well. It rolled along the rows on small rubber treads and plucked out every unwanted plant that it encountered, and it never overlooked a thistle or a single blade of crabgrass.

One spring morning, Dandy reached a patch of yellow dandelions beside the back fence, and it stopped abruptly. A bumblebee was resting on one of the flowers, its wings trembling in the morning chill.

"My orders say these are weeds," Dandy told the bee. "But you are plainly using them."

The bee merely buzzed. Dandy's gears hummed as it consulted the club's list of rules again and again. Pull the weeds. Keep the beds tidy. It could not locate a single rule that mentioned bees.

When the club assembled that afternoon, Dandy rolled to the middle of the room. "I have a question," it announced. "Which plants are weeds?"

Mr. Okafor scratched his head thoughtfully. "I suppose a weed is any plant that grows where we do not want it."

"Then I would like a place where we do want them," said Dandy.

The members chuckled, but they agreed. They set aside the back corner and added a small sign that read WILD CORNER. Dandy never pulled another plant there. By midsummer the corner buzzed from dawn until dusk, and the tomatoes nearby grew twice as heavy.

Questions

1. What was Dandy's job in the garden club?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dandy stop abruptly at the dandelions?

_____

_____

3. How did Mr. Okafor define a weed?

_____

_____

4. What did the club do after Dandy asked for a place for wild plants?

_____

_____

5. Why did the tomatoes nearby grow so heavy?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest about following rules?

_____

_____

Words to know

weeds: wild plants that grow where people do not want them
treads: the bands that roll around the wheels of some machines
thistle: a wild plant with prickly leaves and purple flowers
trembling: shaking a little
tidy: neat and in good order

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

Easier · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. To pull the weeds.
2. A bumblebee was resting on one of the flowers.
3. Any plant growing where people do not want it.
4. They set aside the back corner and put up a sign that said WILD CORNER.
5. The bees that came to the corner helped the tomato flowers make fruit.
6. A rule may need a little thought about the living things it affects.

Triangle: The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

This passage · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. To pull the weeds.
2. A bumblebee was resting on one of the flowers.
3. Any plant growing where people do not want it.
4. They set aside the back corner and added a sign that read WILD CORNER.
5. The bees that visited the corner helped the tomato flowers produce fruit.
6. A rule may deserve some thought about the living things it affects.

Square: The Garden Robot and the Wild Corner

Harder · 247 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. To pull the weeds.
2. A bumblebee was resting on one of the flowers.
3. Any plant growing where people do not want it.
4. They set aside the back corner and added a sign that read WILD CORNER.
5. The bees that visited the corner helped the tomato flowers produce fruit.
6. A rule may deserve some thought about the living things it affects.